

1/27/71

Dear Mr. Huie,

Of the several things that prevented my acceptance of your fair and kind offer of September 16, most important and controlling is the fact that I'm both broke and deep in debt. After receiving that letter I heard from an old friend who was then negotiating a movie right with you, Sidney Kaufman. I presume he told you what this work has done to me financially.

My interest in these files continues. It is not for literary purposes. My book was done long ago. I added a chapter on my suit against the Department of Justice. The only writing I might do in which this would be useful would be an assessment of the three different intrusions into the processes of society represented by you, Kaiser and me. At some point I would like to do this, but I have no plans for it and do not know if I'll ever have time.

My major interests are to complete my own files, which I expect to be part of an archive some day, and to see if there is anything in them that could mean anything to me from what I've learned from the work I've done that did not seem significant to those of you who began with your own preconceptions.

Part of my interest in completing this file is a desire to leave the fairest possible record of you, for my writing is critical of what you, Hanes and Foreman did - and didn't - do.

My interest in any content in which I might see significance is because I think there must be what there never has been, a defense of the accused within the organs of our society, handicapped as that now is. My belief may seem naive and atavistic today, but it is that society must function, most of all the limping system of justice. My own work persuades me that there was a conspiracy in which Ray was not likely the shooter. (If you did any real New Orleans investigation or had any leads you were not able to follow, those might be of especial interest in this connection.)

The only way truth can be both established and credited is in a court of law. In none of the major assassinations was it permitted to, if at all, without taint. With Ray alive, that remains a possibility.

I can neither pay for the xeroxing of what must be a fairly large file nor can I in good conscience ask you to, though you may be able to afford it. However, I hope it is not asking too much to hope that where there are duplicates someone might be able to send them to me. Thanks for anything you feel you can do.

Good luck in your project with Sidney. He is one of the few honest men in that business. And a very fine man, too.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg